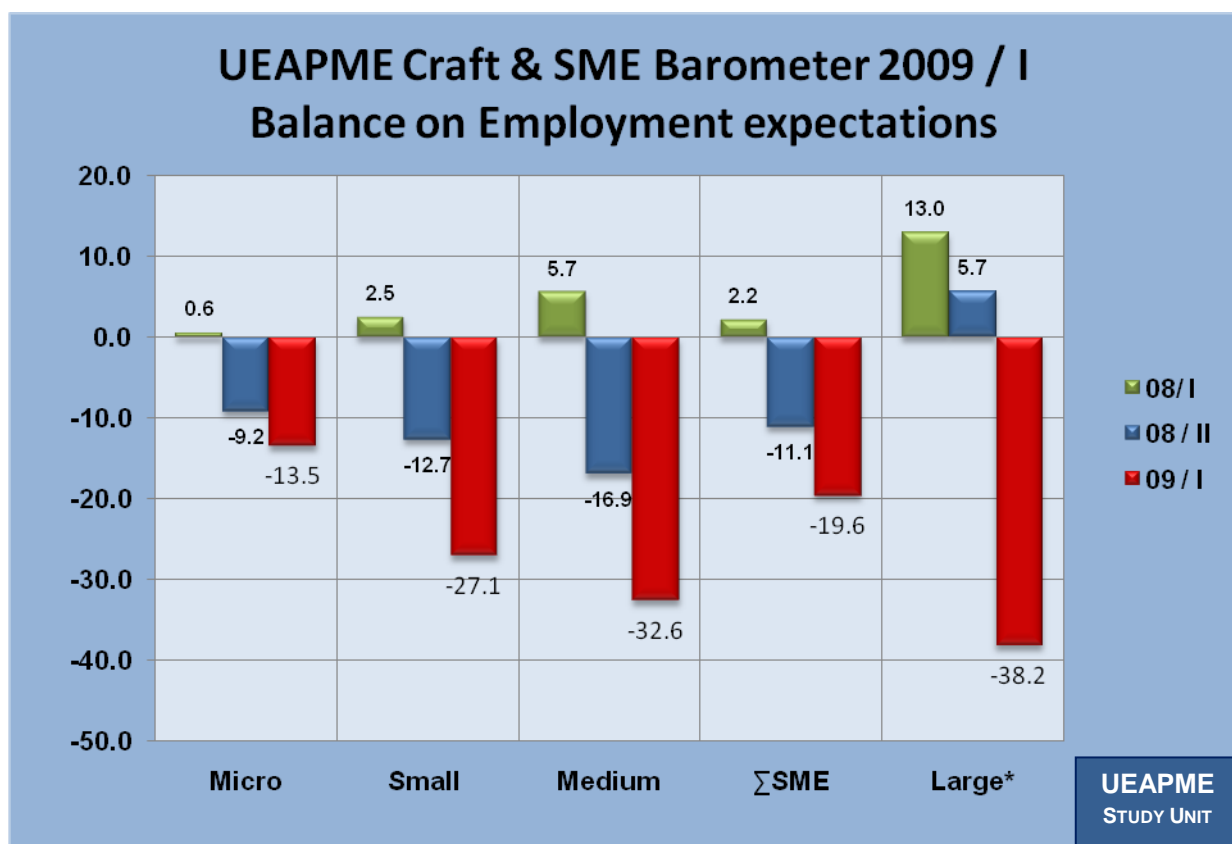


First results from the upcoming
 UEAPME Craft and SME Barometer 2009 / I:
Employment expectations



The graphs show the balance of companies (weighted by number of employees), which report growing (+), stable (0) or decreasing (-) employment, arranged by size classes. Data for large* enterprises were calculated on the base of the monthly monitoring report from the European Commission's DG Employment.

The results of the survey, which was conducted in December 2008 and January 2009 within the European Union, shows a dramatic decrease in employment expectations since the economic crisis has become reality. However, the reduction is much more pronounced for larger companies than for smaller enterprises. The highest level of stability is shown by micro enterprises.